

listed in the minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Council, held last September 18th. Fortunately, there is one other item also listed — “cooperation and liaison with the Wye Institute”. At this stake of the game, this last item could be the most important of all. Certainly it is evident that anyone concerned with the economy of the Eastern Shore will almost inevitably break down the problem areas in groupings somewhat akin to those just named.

Essentially the Eastern Shore has been confronted for the past quarter century with the same basic problems — a decline of the commercial fishing industry, isolation from the mainland, and a lack of a trained and highly motivated labor force. As of now, one of these elements — isolation — has been at least partially removed. A breakthrough has occurred. It is now incumbent upon all of us to attack the remaining problems with renewed vigor. One thing the Wye Institute has done — even before it turns its hand to any one specific project — is to give notice by its very existence that a new and powerful force has begun to work for the common good on the Eastern Shore. If the word of the arrival of the Wye Institute has convinced even one able, young native ‘Shoreman to stay home and put his talents to work on the ‘Shore, then the Wye Institute has already done this community a great service.

After all, it is no mystery that the old ways of life on the Eastern Shore are going to undergo vast changes in the years ahead. The two great concrete and steel links that now bind this peninsula to the mainland will take care of that, come what may. It is our job to see that these changes happen in an orderly way, in a way that will bring increased economic and cultural values to the Eastern Shore. Growth we will surely have. But growth does not necessarily mean progress. It is up to us to see to that.

The Wye Institute and the Delmarva Advisory Council are two organizations that have come into being for the express purpose of seeing to it that progress does accompany growth. Both of these organizations are in an embryonic stage. It is our job to see that these groups, and others, work together to produce the maximum possible net benefits for the people of the Eastern Shore. The Wye Institute, both because of its superb all-encompassing approach, and because of its strong and long-term financing, will be the natural leader of much long-range planning as well as the instigator of numerous pilot projects. With this kind of an assist, State and local government projects undoubtedly will get off to a faster and surer start. When the resources of the Wye Institute combine with those of the State or local